

MANDREL AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING
COMPOSITE STRUCTURES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method for retaining composite structures, such as composite honeycomb structures, during manufacture are provided. The composite structure is cured on a mandrel that defines a layup surface with a grip feature. The grip feature is configured to engage the composite structure during manufacture and retain the structure in a predetermined configuration. A film adhesive can be provided between the grip feature and a tiedown ply that extends from the composite structure.

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